



# The Mountain-Prairie Review

[Http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/ea](http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/ea)

September 2002

## Madison WMD Dedicates New Visitor Center

By Jennifer Briggs

The Madison Wetland Management District recently hosted an Open House and Ribbon Cutting ceremony on Wednesday, August 21, 2002. There were over 200 people that came to explore and take part in the dedication of the newly renovated visitor center and office expansion project.



The day began at 10:00 a.m. with a flag raising ceremony conducted by the local Boy Scout Troop and was followed by guest speakers from congressional staffs, county commissioners, and regional office personnel. The Greater Madison Area Chamber of Commerce and several local businesses assisted with the Ribbon Cutting ceremony. Honker also made a guest appearance and was a big hit with the kids. As Honker approached the crowd outside, one youngster made the comment, "Man, that's one big duck."

Visitors took a walk on the wild



side and stepped into the new visitor center to catch a glimpse of the 15 snow geese circling over head.

They also viewed framed prints donated by nine local South Dakota artists, and observed the fur, skull, track mold, and scat displays. Outside the visitor center, the staff had set up a spotting scope on the deck to watch a large flock of pelicans performing a fantastic feeding display.

The open house also provided an excellent opportunity to educate the visitors about next year's centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The time capsule was on display and several ideas were generated as to what we should include inside. The district also held its centennial quilt square contest with 11 entries and 80 people casting their vote.

## Archery Update

By Jean Clemens

Erika Anschutz (daughter of Steve Anschutz, Grand Island ES), who went to Nymburk, Czech Republic on the U.S. Junior World World Team in archery won Gold in her first Junior World Outdoor Target Archery Championship tournament. While there, Erika tied a world record in the 60-meter target distance and established a new world record in the 12-arrow finals match.

Congratulations from all of us.



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## Celebrating a Century of Conservation



### **Sewing Seeds for National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial and Beyond**

By Melvie Uhland

Much is happening in the Region in preparation for the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial in 2003. At our field stations, Centennial coordinators and fellow staff members are building awareness of the Refuge System and its upcoming birthday through open houses, on-site activities, birding festivals, and quilt contests.

Quilt contests? Yes, quilt contests! Many of our refuges initiated a local quilt contest to help build awareness of their refuge and the Refuge System with a non-traditional audience. The winning square from each local contest will represent that refuge in a regional quilt that will become a traveling display after March 14, 2003 (the Refuge System Birthday). Several states are incorporating their second place squares into state quilts that will also be displayed. Look for the Region 6 quilt story in the upcoming Fish and Wildlife News!



### **How to Survive a Heart Attack Alone**

By Sharon Rose

Let's say it's 6:15 p.m. and you're driving home (alone of course), after an unusually hard day on the job. You're really tired, upset and frustrated. Suddenly you start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to radiate out into your arm and up into your jaw. You are only about five miles from the hospital nearest your home; unfortunately you don't know if you'll be able to make it that far. What can you do?

You've been trained in CPR but the guy that taught the course neglected to tell you how to perform it on yourself. Without help, the person whose heart stops beating properly and who begins to feel faint, has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness.

However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough. The cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest. And a cough must be repeated about every 2 seconds without let up until help arrives or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movement squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a hospital.

(reprint from The Mended Hearts, Inc. publication, Heart Response).

### **New Fisheries ARD**

By John Blankenship

It is with great pleasure that I announce the selection of Mr. Mike Stempel as the Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries for the Mountain-Prairie Region in Denver, Colorado, effective immediately.

Mike has been a member of the regional fisheries staff for some time so most of you may know him. Mike has worked in the headquarters office of the Service, plus numerous other fisheries stations. With Mike's history with the Fisheries Program, we are looking to Mike to help the Service bring new emphasis and action to the Fisheries program not only in our Regional states but Nationwide. He has a big challenge ahead of him, but we are confident that he can handle it.

Congratulations Mike!

## **Fisheries**



### **Another new URL for a National Fish Hatchery**

By Karen Miranda Gleason

D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery has a brand new website on-line, built with the help of Michele Dutton, Computer Specialist with Regional Office Fisheries Staff.

You can view by clicking:  
<http://dcbooth.fws.gov>.

By Heather Gonzalez



Let's try a new tip for this month, I'll show you how to type out a table in Word. You can create tables in Microsoft Word by simply typing out a string of PLUS SIGNS (+) and MINUS SIGNS (-). Start the row with a PLUS SIGN (+) and then type MINUS SIGN (-) until you have the column width you want. To add a new column, type PLUS SIGN (+) again. When you're done type a final PLUS SIGN (+) and press ENTER. Word turns your text into a table. To add more rows to your table, move to the last cell in the table and press TAB.

You may send me e-mail with any topic ideas that you have and I will do my best to provide information. Any of your feedback is welcome—what works? What doesn't?

By Ben Sobieck

The website as a whole is very easy to use. Directions are clear and free of confusing instructions. You just click on “New User”, register your information (SSN, department, agency, etc.) and you’re off to take a two-to eight-hour course of your choice. The site is set up so you have the perspective of actually being in a training facility, giving your experience an almost video game-like quality. A text-only version is also available should you wish to get right to the point. This site also contains a massive amount of resource material from libraries across the globe, making it a valuable tool for any employee.

By Carol M. Taylor

We need two to five people each week during the spawning period to assist our regular spawning crew. This is an excellent opportunity to expand the knowledge and experiences. For participating employees will have to cover their own per diem and travel costs, although we do have a two-bedroom mobile home available for housing.

If you are interested please contact Ed Stege or Deedee Roberts at Saratoga NFH. Ed and Deedee can be reached at (307) 326-5662 to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for all your past assistance, and we are looking forward to another successful spawning program this fall.

By Ben Sobieck



For his dedication to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Aid program, David Hamm was recently awarded the Department of Interior's Meritorious Service Award. Among other achievements, he was a major participant in the settlement negotiation for seven findings and recommendations for the Office of Inspector General's Colorado audit report. He prepared the Corrective Action Plan for the resolution of those seven findings, two of which involved nearly \$29 million in diverted license fees and lands purchased with license fees. Congratulations on your achievement.



## Regional Director's Column Safety – Dollars and Sense

By Ralph Morgenweck

A curious meeting is held among our ARDs and Refuge Chief every so often in the Regional Office. They will gather in a secluded room, usually three at a time, and won't come out until they reach unanimous agreement on a host of issues. The results of their deliberations can have a direct impact on your personal financial status.

These members of the Regional Directorate represent the "Board of Survey", a rotational responsibility which entails reviewing accident and damage reports from both the field and RO. In cases where negligence is determined, employees are personally assessed damages; in many cases up to \$200 and sometimes more. Often the actual damages are much higher, especially when automobiles are involved, but those additional expenses are borne by the programs. (ARDs/Chiefs are prohibited from evaluating accident reports from their own programs.)

A review of recent incidents reveals that auto accidents – specifically autos and trucks moving *backwards* – result in most employee damage assessments. Luckily, these types of slow-motion accidents rarely result in personal injury, but I do want to caution everyone to pay close attention when extracting themselves and vehicles from parking lots, garages, gas stations and tight spots in the field, especially if backing out.

There have also been accidents of a much more serious nature; thankfully without serious injury. I want to strongly encourage everyone to make safety their first priority. Look every time before backing up. Slow down. An extra night in a motel or a missed meeting is a cheap price to pay for safe travel and your personal safety.

## Congressional Affairs Interior Appropriations Bill

By Matt Kales

With the clock ticking toward Congress' October 4<sup>th</sup> target adjournment date, the Senate is continuing its debate on the Fiscal Year 2003 Interior Appropriations Bill. The House version of the bill, H.R. 5093, which passed on July 17<sup>th</sup>, recommends an appropriation of \$918,359,000 for the Service (for Resource Management), while the Senate Appropriations Committee report, which was passed out of the Committee on June 27<sup>th</sup>, recommends a slightly larger Service appropriation of \$924,620,000. Both of these recommendations are departures from the President's FY 03 budget request for Resource Management (\$934,726,000). Once the Senate passes its version of the appropriations bill, the two houses will seek to reconcile the disparities between the two bills via conference. The pace at which the Senate, and the Conference Committee, complete their respective tasks will determine whether Congress is able to pass an Interior bill by the end of the current Fiscal Year (only 3 weeks from the time of this writing). Given the variety of other, powerful political currents swirling around Capitol Hill; e.g., the upcoming general election, homeland security issues, etc., the odds seemed stacked against Congress delivering a complete spending bill to the President (and his signing it) within the next two weeks, and increasing the likelihood that a Continuing Resolution will be required until such time as the President signs the FY 2003 Appropriations bill.

## Native American Affairs One-Day Seminar

By David Redhorse

As tribes manage their fish and wildlife resources they invoke into their programs knowledge passed from many generations before. Central to tribal perspective is the relationships between wildlife and people.

*The Blackfeet have always had a close relationship with the great bear....we have come to a closer relationship because of his intelligence and great powers.*

*Many years ago there was a time when the bear and the Blackfeet did not get along. After a time the Blackfeet and the bear met to come to an agreement where they would not kill one another. They will leave us alone if we leave them alone....old agreements are forgotten...the bear has forgotten the old agreement and they are starting to cause problems for our people.... some Blackfeet are killing bears for their robes or claws, or just to be rid of a problem.*

The above quotes are from a longer narrative on the grizzly bear prepared by Michael DesRosier, of the Blackfeet Nation. The American Indian Program Council, a subcommittee of the Denver Federal Executive Board, is offering a one-day seminar for federal employees on November 19, 2002. The agenda features a panel on Indigenous Knowledge in the context of contemporary sciences, natural resource management, and sustainable economies. Other topics include Trust and Indian Education. Invited keynote speaker is Tex Hall, Chairman, Three Affiliated Tribes, and President, National Congress of American Indians.

The Mountain-Prairie Review is a monthly publication produced by the USFWS Region 6 External Affairs Office. Publisher: Ralph Morgenweck, Regional Director; Editor: Dan Sobieck, ARD-EA; Staff Writers: Karen Miranda Gleason, Matt Kales, Diane Katzenberger, David Redhorse, Sharon Rose ; Design and Layout: Heather Gonzalez, IRM/ Jean Clemens, EA. All contributions from Region 6 employees are welcomed and will be considered for publication.